Stiletto Heels

translator
Hats/Stiletto

proofreader
octopush

cleaner
Megan/Lilanar

typesetter
Aerial

quality control
Hats

Ane no Kekkon

Volume 3, Chapter 14

Get to know us better at: stilettoheelsteam.net

WHAT'S... RUI... ALL THIS... ABOUT?

IT'S SUNDAY.

THIS LOOKS GOOD.

ALRIGHTY THEN!

MY NAME IS YORI IWATANI.

SOON TO BE FORTY...

SINGLE.

I'M NOT ATTENDING THE RECEPTION TODAY AS A "FRIEND"...

piece.14 *A NEW SEASON*

This is too much... I look like an escort girl.

YES, BUT...

YOU NEED TO DRESS UP LIKE THIS EVEN IF YOU'RE GOING WITH A BUSINESS PARTNER!

IF I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT, YOU'D GO LOOKING LIKE YOU WERE ATTENDING A FUNERAL!

THWAP

OW!

AND FOR MANY MONTHS AND YEARS NOW, I'VE BEEN WRAPPING UP WEDDING GIFTS TO HAND TO OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING MARRIED.

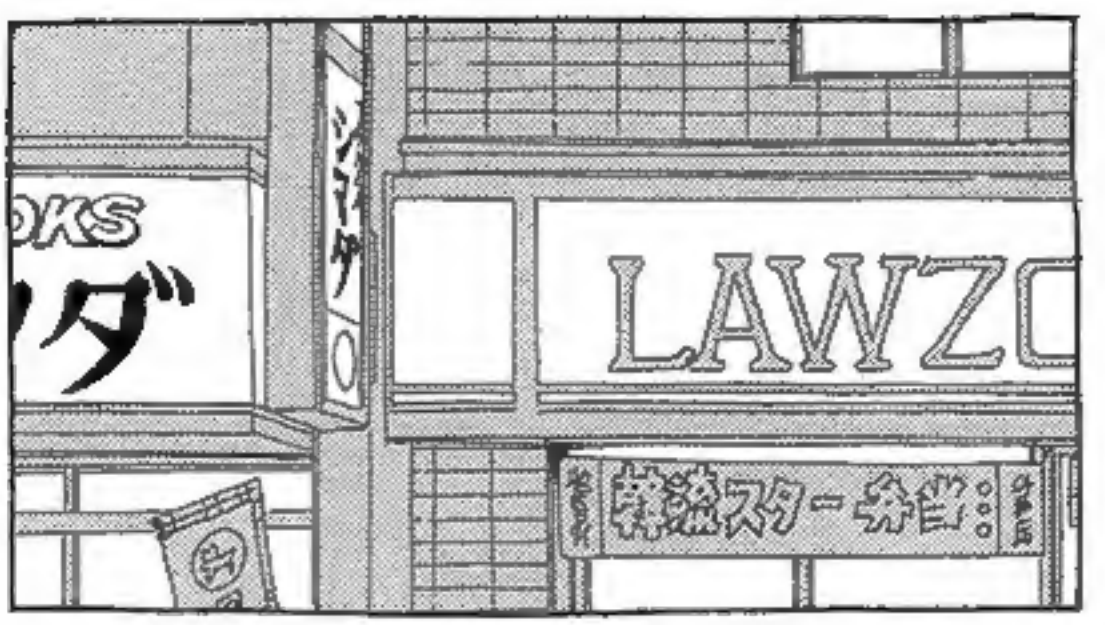
COME ON! COME ON!

IF ALL THE GUESTS LOOK PRETTY, THEN IT'S SURE TO MAKE THE BRIDE LOOK EVEN BETTER!

PUSH PUSH PUSH

GUESTS DON'T NEED TO TRY SO HARD...

COME ON, IT'S ALMOST TIME! GET YOUR SPIRITS UP AND GO!


LAWZ

IT'S BUSINESS-RELATED.

THERE'S NOBODY THERE I'D KNOW.

I'M COMING BACK HOME AT THREE. NEED ME TO PICK UP ANYTHING?

HUH? WHAT ABOUT THE AFTER-PARTY?

SLAP

Stop hitting me already!

This is the perfect opportunity!

WELL, MAKE SOME FRIENDS!

Don't worry about buying me anything!

WHERE'D YOU SAY THE RECEPTION WAS?

AT A CHURCH? HOTEL?

DO YOU NEED ME TO MAKE YOU DINNER TONIGHT?

I'LL EAT BEFORE I COME HOME.

YOU FORGOT YOUR GIFT.

OH, YEAH?

KAWAHARA KOICHIRO

YOICHI-RO?

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR HAIRSTYLE A BIT...

WHERE IS THE RECEP-TION?

OKAY.

SAY HELLO TO THE BRIDE'S PARENTS FOR ME.

Oh, really?

ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T NEED A TAXI?

THE CEREMONY IS IN THE EARLIEST TIME SLOT, SO I'LL BE BACK HOME FAST.

YEAH, IT'S NEARBY.

WHERE?

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I'M THE GROOM'S BOSS ANYWAY.

...YOU'D LOOK MUCH YOUNGER.

SAKA NO UE HOTEL.

Sapphire

Let's see...

THE GROOM, TAKUTOSAMA, WAS BORN IN SAPPORO CITY IN THE 1970'S...

AND AFTER GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE, HE WORKED AS A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR A NEWSPAPER COMPANY IN TOKYO.

AFTERWARDS, HE STARTED FREELANCING AND HE'S DOING VERY WELL IN HIS ACTIVITIES.

Congratulations

KUROI FAMILY

MASUO FAMILY

We're tying the knot

CHATTER CHATTER

WHISPER WHISPER

ONCE SHE WAS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE, SHE BEGAN WRITING CHILDREN'S BOOKS PROFESSIONALLY...

AND WON MANY AWARDS. I'M SURE YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF JUST HOW HIGHLY-VALUED SHE IS TO OUR COMMUNITY AS A WOMAN OF CULTURE.

CHATTER CHATTER

AFTER GRADUATING SHORT TERM FROM OUR LADY OF NAKASAKI GIRLS' COLLEGE, SHE BEGAN WORKING AT MTT NAKASAKI...

WOW...

Hmm...

I believe I saw you at Professor So-and-So's party before.

MISS NAOKO, THE BRIDE, WAS BORN IN NAKASAKI CITY IN THE 1960'S...

I see, I see.

Let's see, I think I requested your help at the library for my work.

Oh, thank you!

Thank you!

I WAS SURPRISED TOO WHEN I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM PROFESSOR KUROKI...

HER HUSBAND IS COMPLETELY BENEATH HER.

SO IN OTHER WORDS,

Ruby

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

Congratulations

MIYANAGA FAMILY

SASAKI FAMILY

We're tying the knot

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AND NOW, WE'LL HAVE MR. SO-AND-SO, PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, OFFER A WORD OF CONGRATULATIONS.

glance glance

Hm?

yaaaaawn

nod nod

AND NEXT, A WORD OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM OUR PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN, MR. SUCH-AND-SUCH!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

AND NEXT, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF NAKASAKI'S YOTSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRY...

A LEGISLATOR FROM THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS...

SCRTCH

THEY ONLY DATED FOR THREE MONTHS.

I HEARD MUKO'S PARENTS WERE AGAINST IT...

hiss hiss

mmbl mmbl

I HEARD IT'S A SHOTGUN WEDDING.

I KNEW IT! NO WONDER THEY PROPOSED A WEDDING SO FAST!

Congratulation

KUBO FAMILY

SUETAKE FAMILY

We're tyi... th... ou...

...

mmm!
mmm!
hiss
hiss
IN FIVE YEARS, HIS WIFE WILL BE FIFTY, AND MATSUO WILL ONLY BE THIRTY-EIGHT.
YOU THINK IT'LL WORK OUT?
Well it's his marriage after all.
A BIT HARD TO CHEW, ISN'T IT?
MARRIAGE AT FORTY-FIVE.
HMM.
EXCUSE ME
HUH...?
WERE A STUDENT FROM HANA-NO-SHIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL?
COULD IT BE YOU

I'M TOMOKO SHINKAWA. WE WERE IN THE SAME GRADE DO YOU REMEMBER ME? YOU PROBABLY DON'T

OH YOU WERE IN KITAOKA'S CLASS.

Come to think of it...

Fixture in the library

Leader of a gang of girls

cool

Popular

GORGEOUSLY STYLISH

WE NEVER TALKED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, DID WE?

I USED TO BE A BIT AFRAID OF HER

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

YES, WE WERE IN A BOOK CLUB AT WORK...

WE SHARE THE SAME INTERESTS, SO WE KEPT IN TOUCH.

YOU MUST BE HERE ON BUSINESS RELATIONS

I WAS HER KOUHAI WHEN SHE WORKED AS AN OL, AND WE WENT TO JUNIOR COLLEGE TOGETHER

NO

WHAT ABOUT PROFESSOR KUROKI? YOU'RE SITTING IN THE FRIENDS' ZONE

LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA

IWATANI-SAN?

MAY I CALL YOU THAT?

TAP TAP-TAP

SURE

KLAK KLAK-KLAK

ARI- ARI- ARI- YAI

YOU CAN CALL ME SHINKAWA-SAN

TEN YEARS AGO, I WOULD HAVE BEEN "HASHIGUCHI-SAN" THOUGH

WHAT WAS THIS INTEREST YOU SHARED IN COMMON?

Hehe

I'M NOT MUCH OF A "GIRL" ANYMORE

Wow

YOU'RE A "MOUNTAIN GIRL"

MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING

AND A MOTORCYLE HIT HIM WHILE HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO WORK.

HE LEFT IN THE MORNING AS USUAL..

THE YEAR AFTER WE GOT MARRIED, HE GOT INTO A CAR ACCIDENT

YOU SEE, MY HUSBAND WAS A LEVEL ABOVE ME IN THE COMPANY

SOMEHOW,

IT STILL HASN'T REGISTERED THAT HE'S GONE

SO I'M NOT EVEN THINKING OF MARRYING AGAIN

WAS HE THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

NO

HE WAS LIKE A FRIEND TO ME.

WE WERE STILL TRYING TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

MAYBE THAT'S WHY.

IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THINGS HAVE ENDED

IF WE HAD HAD THIS BURNING, PASSIONATE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

I'D PROBABLY BE THINKING, "IT'S OVER NOW, I CAN MOVE ON TO SOMEONE NEW "

OR MAYBE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THIS WAY.

AHEM

I'M SURE THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR AGE HAS BEEN QUITE A TOPIC FOR EVERYONE HERE.

WHO WOULD KNOW WHAT A UNION IS LIKE EXCEPT FOR THE PEOPLE INVOLVED?

SOME PEOPLE GET MARRIED BECAUSE EVERYONE SAYS IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

AND I NEVER ONCE FELT LIKE MY MARRIAGE WAS "WRONG"

I WAS TOLD I'D BE ABLE TO MEET HER IN PERSON FOR A JOB

AND I WAS REALLY PUMPED UP, BUT WHEN I WENT TO THE LOCATION,

I WAS NOT AWARE OF HER AGE

I ALWAYS ASSUMED SHE WAS IN HER MID-TWENTIES AND PICTURED HER AS A FRAIL AND FRAGILE WOMAN

I MAY HAVE BEEN HER FAN SINCE I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT BECAUSE SHE KEPT HER AGE PRIVATE,

SHE WAS THERE

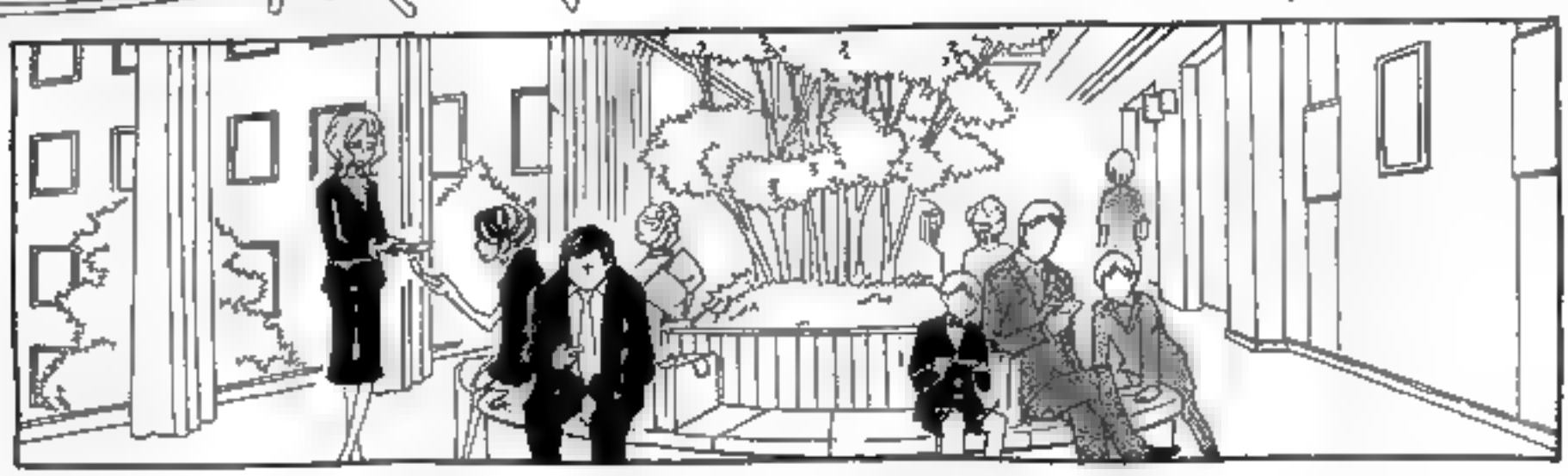
AND WE SPENT TIME TOGETHER

HA HA HA.

AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER

IT TOOK THREE YEARS OF ME GOING AFTER HER NOT AS THE WRITER, NAOKO KUROKI, BUT SIMPLY AS THE WOMAN, NAOKO KUROKI.

FROM NOW ON, THE TWO OF US WILL GO ON LIVING TOGETHER IN A NEW SEASON



INFRA-RED TRANS-CEIVERS

ONLY WORK ON SMARTPHONES, DON'T THEY?

SMARTPHONES ARE DIFFICULT TO USE

THE FEELING'S MUTUA...

BYE, AND TAKE CARE

SAY HELLO TO PROFESSOR KUROKI FOR ME

Phew

"MARRIAGE"

HUH ?

Almighty then

I'm starving!

Gosh, he's hot!

You're totally skimping!

Dude,

YOU WANTED TO EAT OUT FOR DINNER 'CAUSE IT'S SUNDAY, BUT YOU'RE ORDERING CURRY?

YEAH

IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT, THEN GO MAKE YOUR OWN FOOD IS CHEESE OKAY ON YOUR FRIED CHICKEN CURRY?

HOW WAS THE . RECEP-T.ON?

MAKI

705

I'M HO-

IT WAS NORMAL.

CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'D ACTUALLY GET MARRIED

I BET THEY WON'T LAST

IT WAS CLEARLY A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE

BUT

EVEN AFTER YOU'VE REALIZED YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE,

THAT'S THE PATH A PERSON MUST TAKE.

MARRIAGE IS A CONTRACT, ISN'T IT?

ONCE YOU'RE BOUND TO A CONTRACT IN THE FORM OF A "MARRIAGE",

THEN YOU MUST CONTINUE TO SUFFER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN THAT "MARRIAGE".

AND I WON'T STRAY FROM THAT PATH

EVEN IF YOU DO

CLUNK

MARRIAGE.

HUH ?

THAT'S RIGHT EVERYWHERE'S IN NEW YEAR'S MODE

NEW YEAR'S EVE TH'S YEAR I HAVE RL THOUGH

WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK TOO, SIS?

It'll be a piece of cake!

I'M SURE SHE'S GOING OVER TO OUR PARENTS

THE TASTE OF THE SPECIAL ORDER OSECHI WOULD BE OVERWHELMING.

BUT SINCE CHRISTMAS CAKES MAKE ME FEEL LONELIER YEAR AFTER YEAR,

I'LL BUY TWO LOAVES OF BREAD, CHEESE HAM, AND LIVER PATE FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE NEW YEAR'S

THAT'S HOW I'LL SPEND MY NEW YEAR'S.

THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

WHEN WILL BE MY LAST

CAN'T IMAGINE BEING WITH ANYONE.

RU , MY DEAR

BUT I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF DISCUSSING IT W TH YOU

WHEN A WOMAN NEARING FORTY CAN'T KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HER PARENTS THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR ,T

GUESS I'M ON MY OWN AGAIN THIS YEAR

KLK
KLK
KLK

HUH?!

HELLO.

ACTUALLY, MY MOTHER IS UNABLE TO MOVE...

IS SHE ALL RIGHT?

Sending...

BIP!

SENDING

KLAK

JERK!

JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE

INCOMING

M-MORE IMPOR-TANTLY WHAAAT?!

PLEASE DON'T WORRY.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT'S UNFORTUNATE I WON'T BE ABLE TO JOIN YOU.

IF HIS MOTHER

'S UNABLE TO MOVE, THAT MEANS

HIS HOUSE

COME TO THINK OF 'T, HE TOLD ME WHEN WE HAD THE CURRY PARTY

SHE COLLAPSED?

KLICK

LET'S SEE I'M SURE HE SAID

IT WAS BEHIND NAKA-NO MACH. ELEMENTARY

KOICHIRO KAWAHARA

OH

IT'S PROBABLY HERE

DING DONG

COMING!

CLICK

OH MY!

WE'VE MET BEFORE. OH MY, OH MY!

THUD THUD THUD

HUH . ?

M- MA'AM I THOUGHT YOU HAD COLLA- PSED

UM.

OH!

HAHAHAHA

SO YOU FELL DOWN THE STAIRS .. AND SPRAINED YOUR ANKLE

Why yes! It's nothing really!

MY SON STARTED PANIC- KING AND WENT AND CANCELLED ALL HIS APPOINT- MENTS

GOODNESS, THIS SON OF MINE! HE MADE A BIG FUSS OUT OF NOTHING!

PUFF PUFF

TUHD

TH-THANK GOODNESS. I THOUGHT IT WAS SERIOUS.

Phew.

I-I'M REALLY SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY!

M-MOM!

IWATANI-SAN HAS TO LEAVE.

NO I'M ABOUT TO--

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME

THE POTATO BUNS JUST GOT DONE STEAMING

I-I'M SORRY

PLEASE DON'T MIND HER GO AHEAD AND GO

Come on. Show her inside!

Since she came all the way here we could at least serve her a cup of tea.

What are you saying?

MOM! THAT'S ENOUGH!

Oh, um... and next...

and next...

WHY DON'T YOU TRY THIS TOO? I MADE THE NUKAZUKE MYSELF

AND BUTTERBUR IN LIGHT BROTH

AND THESE ARE OYSTERS I GOT YESTERDAY

NO, I DO I'LL HAVE ONE

IWATANI-SAN YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT IT IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT

See?

STEAMED BUNS ARE DELICIOUS, AREN'T THEY?

MOO-OOOM!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! YOU SHOULD STAY OVER FOR DINNER

It's already evening

DID

SOMETHING HAPPEN?

It won't cost us a penny to add another plate.

I told you, that's enough!

That's not the point!

O-OH.

YOUR TEXT

WITH ME?

JUST FELT LIKE IT

I NEEDED WELL, THERE WASN'T ANY PARTICULAR REASON

FROM THINKING TOO MUCH

GUESS I'M A LITTLE TIRED.

YES...

I'M THINKING TOO MUCH.

SO MUCH...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WHAT ANYMORE...

...

SO THAT'S WHY...

YET HERE I AM, AGONIZING THIS MUCH OVER THE ISSUE OF MARRIAGE.

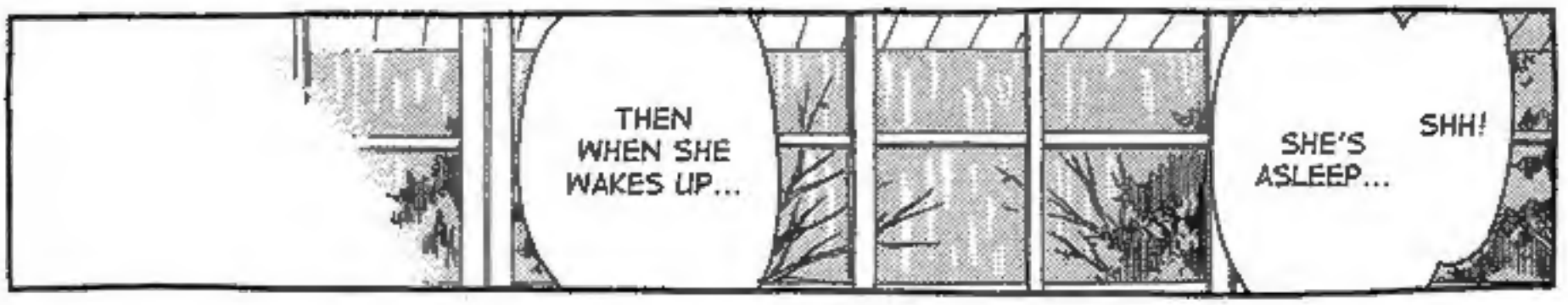
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I WAS NEVER POPULAR WITH THE GUYS? THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT GREW UP THINKING I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A HOUSEWIFE.

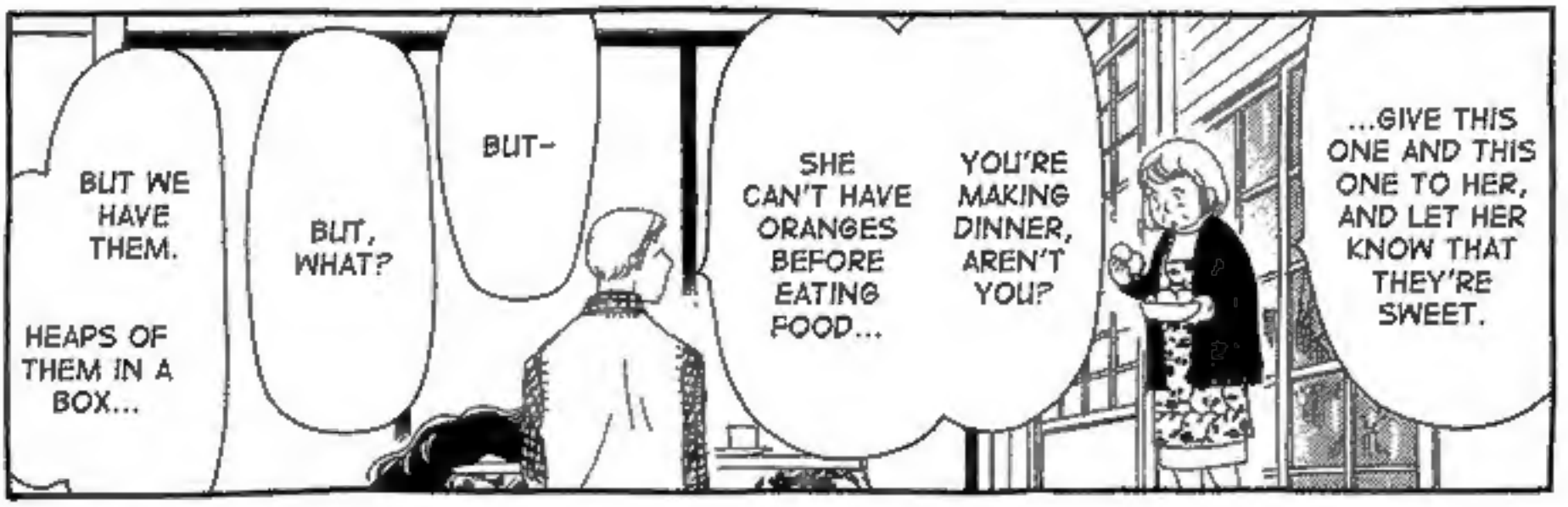
BUT I'VE HONESTLY NEVER DREAMED OF BEING A BRIDE".

PERHAPS PEOPLE WHO ARE ABLE TO GET MARRIED WHILE STILL FANTASIZING ABOUT THEIR DREAM WEDDING AS A CHILD ARE JUST LUCKY?

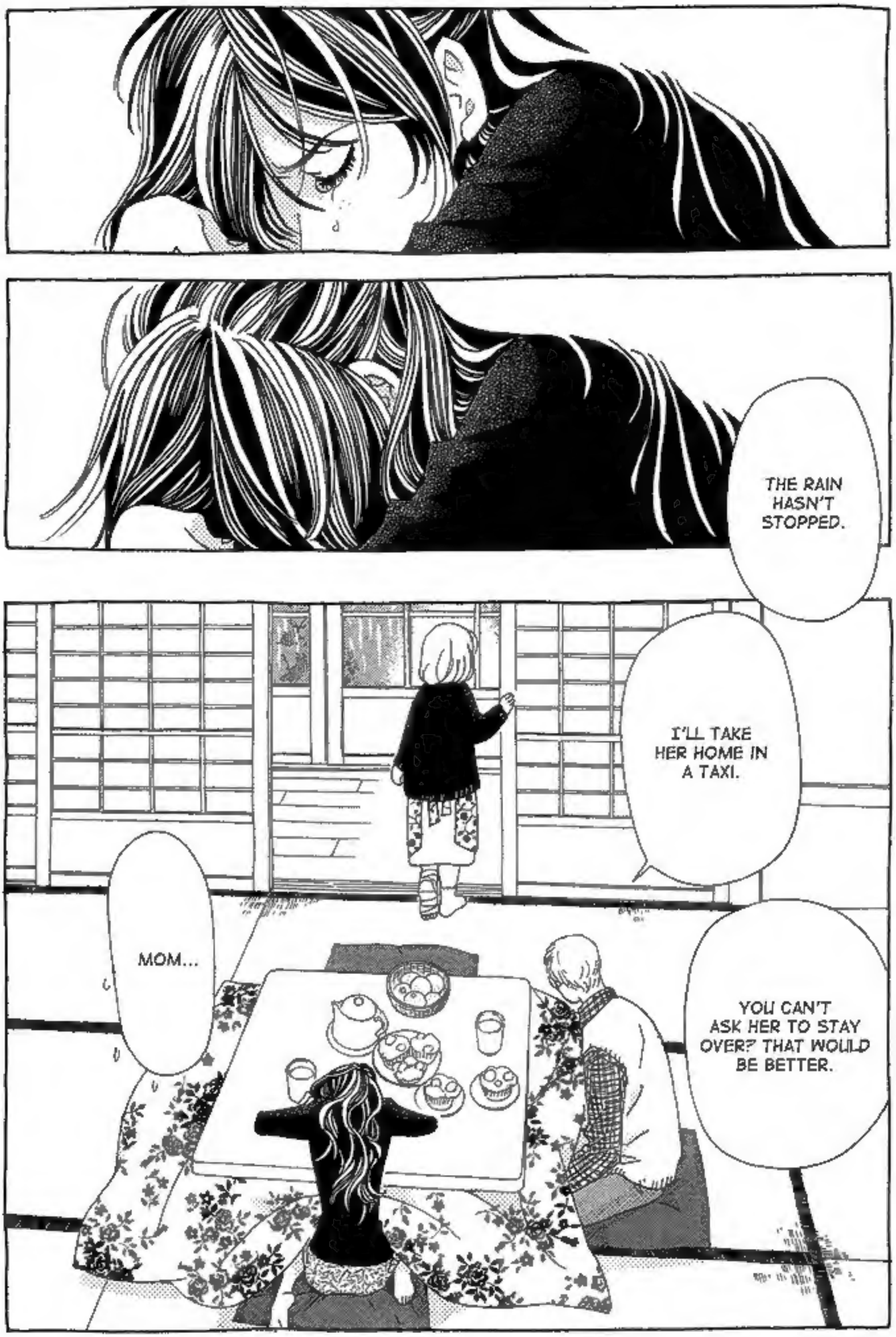
What a lovely bride!

WHAT IS THIS THING...
...THAT PEOPLE CALL MARRIAGE?


THEN WHEN SHE WAKES UP...
SHE'S ASLEEP...
SHH!


BUT WE HAVE THEM.
HEAPS OF THEM IN A BOX...
BUT, WHAT?
BUT-
SHE CAN'T HAVE ORANGES BEFORE EATING FOOD...
YOU'RE MAKING DINNER, AREN'T YOU?
...GIVE THIS ONE AND THIS ONE TO HER, AND LET HER KNOW THAT THEY'RE SWEET.

BUT WE HAVE THEM...?
Then leave them over there.


THE RAIN HASN'T STOPPED.
I'LL TAKE HER HOME IN A TAXI.
MOM...
YOU CAN'T ASK HER TO STAY OVER? THAT WOULD BE BETTER.

POLICE